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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/507,941	02/22/2000	Masato Ochiai	35.C14278	2960
5514	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO			ENGLAND, DAVID E	
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10112			PAPER NUMBER	

2143

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/507,941

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI, MASATO

Examiner

David E. England

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 - 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 - 21, 34 and 47 - 49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 - 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 - 21, 34 and 47 - 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 – 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19 – 21, 34 and 47 – 49 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15, 34 and 47 – 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beser (6189102) in view of Tanimoto et al. (6075776) (hereinafter Tanimoto).
4. Referencing claim 1, as interpreted by the Examiner, Beser teaches a network apparatus comprising:
 5. a receiving unit adapted to receive data from a network by using a predetermined protocol, (e.g. col. 14, line 38 – col. 16, line 35);
 6. a detecting unit adapted to receive a predetermined value in a packet header of the data received by said receiving unit, the packet header being provided for the predetermined protocol, (e.g. col. 14, line 38 – col. 16, line 35, “HOPS 116, XID 118, FLAGS 122, TLV”); and

7. a setting unit adapted to set a destination logic address of the received data as a logic address of said network apparatus in a case where the predetermined value is detected by said detecting unit and a destination physical address of the received data and a physical address of said network apparatus are the same, (e.g. col. 14, line 38 – col. 16, line 35, “*BOOTP*”), but does not specifically teach setting a destination logic address in a packet header of the received data as a logic address of said network apparatus. Tanimoto teaches setting a destination logic address in a packet header of the received data as a logic address of said network apparatus, (e.g., col. 6, lines 33 – 50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Tanimoto with Beser because setting the destination IP address in the echo request will give the source node the destination IP address which could be used for future transmissions.

8. Referencing claim 2, as interpreted by the Examiner, Beser teaches in a case where the destination logic address of the received data and the logic address of said network apparatus differ, the destination physical address of the received data and the physical address of said network apparatus are the same, and the predetermined value is detected by said detecting unit, said setting unit sets the destination logic address of the received data as logic address of said network, (e.g. col. 14, line 38 – col. 16, line 35, “*BOOTP*”).

9. Referencing claim 4, Beser said physical address is a media access control address, and the logic address is an Internet protocol address, (e.g. col. 14, line 38 – col. 16, line 35 & col. 18, line 49 – col. 19, line 16).

10. Claims 12, 13, 15, 34 and 47 – 49 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

11. Claims 6, 8 – 10, 17 and 19 – 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beser and Tanimoto in view of Anderson et al. (5850388) (hereinafter Anderson).

12. Referencing claim 6, Beser and Tanimoto do not specifically teach the received data is an ICMP echo message by an ICMP protocol and the predetermined value indicates a data length of the ICMP echo message. Anderson teaches the received data is an ICMP echo message by an ICMP protocol and the predetermined value indicates a data length of the ICMP echo message, (e.g. col. 12, lines 22 – 56 & col. 20, line 54 – col. 21, line 30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Anderson with the combine system of Beser and Tanimoto because it would be more efficient for a system to not have to shut down an end system and turn back on to receive a new IP address as with the functionality of BOOTP. Using an ICMP echo would allow a user to keep the end system on and receive a new IP address with out the burden of turning the end system off. Furthermore, utilizing a data length, sometimes known as a “checksum” or “CRC”, allows the end system to check for errors in the packet if the data length is not to a predetermined length.

13. As per claim 8, Beser and Tanimoto do not teach the predetermined value indicates a TTL value of the received data. Anderson teaches the predetermined value indicates a TTL value

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of the received data, (e.g. col. 21, line 59 – col. 22, line 24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Anderson with the combine system of Beser and Tanimoto because it is more efficient for a packet to have a TTL field in a packet so if the packet is taking too long to be transmitted through the Internet the packet could be dropped and aid in congestion control in a network.

14. Claims 9, 10, 17 and 19 – 21 are rejected for similar reasons stated above.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed 10/17/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

16. In the Remarks, Applicant argues in substance that neither Beser nor Tanimoto teach or suggest that when a predetermined value is detected in received data and when a destination physical address of the received data and a physical address of the network apparatus are the same, a destination logic address is set in a packet header of the received data as a logic address of the network address.

17. As to part 1, Examiner would like to draw the Applicant's attention to their claim language of claim 1. In which it states "when a predetermined value is detected". There is no suggestion in the claim language that would define what the predetermined value is or could be.

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Therefore, the claim language could be a numerical value that is read in the header to identify the type of message it is, such as an ICMP echo request for logical addresses. For it is well known in the computer networking art that port numbers are utilized to identify specific types of messages or protocols that are in use in the network among different nodes. Therefore, the prior art of Beser and Tanimoto teach the broad claim language as stated in the application. If the Applicant were to state more specific terminology, it could overcome the rejection as stated but would require further search and consideration.

18. Independent claims 12, 34, 47 and 49 also fall under this understanding of the claim language and are therefore still rejected for these reasons.

19. In the Remarks, Applicant argues in substance that, Beser, Tanimoto and Anderson fail to teach or suggest the network apparatus setting a destination IP address in an IP header of the received ICMP echo message as an IP address of the network apparatus if (a) the data length has a specific value and (b) a destination MAC address of the received ICMP echo message and a MAC address of the apparatus are the same.

20. As to part 2, Examiner would like to draw the Applicant's attention to the rejection on claim 6 and the prior art in which is cited. In which the Applicant will find similarities in the combination of claims 1 and 6 with claim 9. It is known in the computing network art that a checksum or a CRC is used to check bits and length in the message to see if any error occurred in the message while being transferred from one node to the next. This type of well-known protocol attribute reads on the claim language as stated by the Applicant. If the Applicant were to amend

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the claim language to better describe the length value and what specific length it is in reference to, it could overcome the rejection but would require further search and consideration.

21. Independent claim 20 also falls under this understanding of the claim language and is therefore still rejected for these reasons.

Conclusion

22. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 571-272-3912. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.

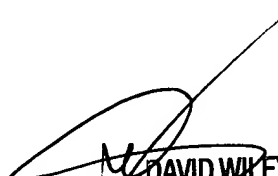
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David E. England
Examiner
Art Unit 2143

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